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**APPLICATION FOR LETTERS PATENT OF
THE UNITED STATES**

INVENTOR: ELLEN WALDMAN

TITLE OF INVENTION: HEAD AND NECK GARMENT

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1 HEAD AND NECK GARMENT

2
3 FIELD OF THE INVENTION.

4 The present invention is an article of apparel which can warm
5 the wearer's neck and head, or neck, and includes a means to open
6 it readily so the wearer can maintain a comfortable temperature
7 while participating in activities such as skiing, ice skating,
8 snowmobiling and the like.

9
10 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.

11 In the northern hemisphere, keeping warm in winter is often a
12 problem. When engaging in outdoor activities such as skiing,
13 sledding, iceskating, snowmobiling, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and
14 the like, this situation can be exacerbated; exposed body parts
15 become even colder because of their exposure to the wind created by
16 the speed of the participant moving through the cold environment.
17 To protect against exposure, and keep the neck, face and head warm,
18 people wear various items such as ski masks, scarves, mufflers,
19 hats or hoods to cover these regions. While these garments
20 initially help to warm up or protect the exposed areas from the
21 cold, because of the heat generated by the individual while
22 engaging in these activities, that additional heat can, over time,
23 lead to overheating. Because many of these activities require the
24 participant to maintain their balance, or to maintain their
25 concentration, it becomes difficult to adjust or remove these items
26 without risking a potential accident.

27
28 Hayden (U.S. Pat. No. 4,495,660) discloses a neck garment
29 comprising a muffler portion and an integral apron portion. The
30 garment includes a set of interengageable fastening means that
31 extend across the width of each end of the material, such that the
32 garment can be put on and around the wearer's neck without having
33 to be extended over the wearer's head. The closure can be either

1 a zipper, hook and loop fasteners, buttons or snaps.

2
3 In U.S. Pat. No. 4,168,543 Baker discloses a protective neck
4 garment, which is a one-piece, continuous, resiliently stretchable
5 structure that is generally tubular in shape and adapted to fit
6 over and conform closely to the wearer's neck. An embodiment
7 includes an inner layer intended to protect the wearer's neck from
8 irritation by the garment's outer layer. The inner layer extends
9 beyond the outer layer, and can be rolled over the outer layer.
10 The outer layer may be made from an insulating material, such as
11 stretch wool, and the inner layer of cotton to protect the wearer's
12 neck from irritation.

13
14 Coursey (U.S. Pat. No. 2,507,333) discloses a closure for
15 mufflers, wherein the zipper is inserted into the garment such that
16 the zipper is hidden when the garment is closed.

17
18 U.S. Pat. No. 2,042,442 (Buchman) discloses a scarf which is
19 closed by a zipper (which is exposed) when worn on the individual's
20 neck. Buchman discloses using down, sewn in pockets within the
21 scarf, for added warmth.

22
23 In U.S. Pat. No. 811,096 Scott discloses a muffler which is
24 closed by means of snap fasteners, positioned in the back of the
25 muffler when worn.

26
27 Herbranson (U.S. Pat. No. 2,346,918) discloses a one piece
28 neck scarf comprising a rectangular piece of fabric and a zipper
29 attached along a side of the fabric, and the zipper can be used to
30 completely or partially fasten the scarf when worn around the
31 wearer's neck.

32
33 In U.S. Pat. No. 746,586 Schoch et al. disclose a combination

1 muffler and chest protector, one embodiment for males and another
2 for females. The female embodiment uses fasteners, such as buttons
3 or snaps, to close the muffler at the back, when worn by the user.
4
5

6 Campbell (U.S. Pat. No. 4,601,066) discloses a combination
7 fashion and exercise garment including warmers that are attached to
8 the garment and which wrap around the desired body part. The
9 garment includes warmers, strips of material attached at one end to
10 the garment, and which further comprises mating strips to secure
11 the warmer around the body part. The warmers may be permanently
12 attached to the garment by stitching or similar means, or removably
13 attached thereto by means of snaps.
14

15 Mustata (U.S. Pat. No. 5,802,618) discloses a neck and chest
16 scarf comprising several layers of material which, when worn, are
17 closed by means of a hook and loop fastener at the back of the
18 user's head and neck. The inventor states that a zipper can be
19 substituted for the hook and loop closures, but using such types of
20 closure at the rear of a garment worn by participants in an active
21 outdoor activity is impractical, particularly in activities where
22 an individual may have other equipment in their hands, or where the
23 individual must maintain their balance.
24

25 In U.S. Pat. No. 6,163,883 Hong discloses a garment with a
26 magnetic vent closure, as an example of a garment which can be used
27 for flow-through cooling of the user, such as a motorcyclist,
28 during warm weather and which can be used in conjunction with other
29 protective clothing.
30

31 Carey, in U.S. Pat. No. 6,272,690 B1, discloses a head
32 covering comprising a mask member with a head member joined
33 together to define an opening that registers with the eyes. The

1 mask member is formed of neoprene. The head member, formed of a
2 fleece material, has a scarf portion extending below the head to
3 surround the neck area of the user. This one-piece garment
4 provides no means to open or adjust the scarf portion of the head
5 covering.

6
7 In U.S. Pat. No. 5,214,804 Carey et al. disclose a protective
8 mask with scarf, held in place about the user's head and neck by a
9 hook and loop fastener, positioned at the rear of the garment, and
10 thus, difficult for one to access while actively engaging in
11 sports.

12
13 A recurrent problem that I described in my previous U.S.
14 Patent (6,397,403 B1), is that once conventional neck warmers or
15 masks are opened, the material still remains on the body part
16 sought to be cooled. Because many of the aforementioned activities
17 require the participant to maintain their balance, or to maintain
18 their concentration, it becomes difficult to adjust or remove these
19 items without risking a potential accident. Furthermore, many
20 individuals engaged in activities such as skiing now wear helmets
21 to protect against the risk of head injury, as well as goggles for
22 eye protection. Helmets and goggles add to the bulk around the
23 individual's neck, and are usually not removed during these
24 activities. A scarf or muffler, once opened, still physically
25 remains in the area, and it may literally be "flapping around in
26 the wind", which can, for example only, cause further distraction,
27 block the wearer's vision or other consequences. Even using a
28 jacket having a zipper which extends over the wearer's neck and
29 face, once the zipper is opened there still is material that needs
30 to be removed from the area to cool it down. A ski mask or hood
31 also presents similar problems, because if it is pulled down from
32 the head, it still surrounds the neck unless it is completely
33 removed. A hat requires removal, and a convenient place in which

1 to place it safely; and such actions are not always feasible. This
2 inventor has observed this problem with garments including zippers
3 used in the conventional manner (i.e., straight up and down, along
4 the length of the wearer's neck), and has overcome this problem by
5 altering the angle at which the zipper is positioned within the
6 garment, thereby enabling the opened garment to lay out of the way,
7 and allow for cooling of the warmed area.

8
9 The present invention is an improvement upon my previous
10 invention, in that in addition to the garment being used as a neck
11 muffler, it includes a hooded portion which will cover the wearer's
12 head, yet allow the hood portion to be removed from the head, and
13 still allow the wearer to cool their head and neck by means of the
14 zipper contained in the neck member of the garment of the present
15 invention.

16
17 The present invention is an article of clothing designed for
18 keeping the wearer's neck warm during outdoor activities, such as
19 skiing or other cold weather activities. The garment includes a
20 neck member and a head covering (or hood) member. The hood member
21 can be made from one or more pieces of fabric, and is attached to
22 the neck member. The hood member can be worn over as much of the
23 head as the user desires. The neck member is made of a single
24 piece of fabric, and includes a zipper which is sewn in at an
25 approximately 45 degree angle in relation to the length of the
26 wearer's neck. The neck member is made such that there is a layer
27 of material beneath the zipper, to protect the wearer's neck from
28 contact with the zipper. By using a zipper at this particular
29 angle, the inventor has found the garment can be opened readily by
30 a user while skiing, and can also be kept open, offering the wearer
31 the ability to cool off readily, yet be out of the way, a problem
32 that occurs when a zipper is used in the conventional manner.

1 BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
2

3 It is an object of the present invention is to provide a
4 garment that will provide warmth to its wearer, and be sufficiently
5 easy to open to enable the wearer to cool down.
6

7 Another object of the present invention is to provide a
8 garment that when opened, will lay out of the way of the wearer.
9

10 Another object of the present invention is to provide a
11 garment that can provide warmth to the neck of an individual, and
12 when opened, will lay out of the way of the wearer.
13

14 Another object of the present invention is to provide a
15 garment that can provide warmth to the head of an individual, and
16 when the hood member of the garment is removed from the wearer's
17 head, and the garment opened, the opened garment will lay out of
18 the way of the wearer.
19

20 Still another object of the present invention is to provide a
21 garment that can provide warmth to the head and neck of an
22 individual, and when the hood member of the garment is removed from
23 the wearer's head, and the garment opened, the opened garment will
24 lay out of the way of the wearer.
25

26 Another object of the present invention to provide a garment
27 that is easy to use by an individual participating in activities
28 during cold weather.
29

30 Another object of the present invention is to provide a
31 garment that is economical to manufacture, and is durable to
32 withstand repeated use.
33

1 The present invention is an article of clothing designed for
2 keeping the wearer's neck warm during outdoor activities, such as
3 skiing or other cold weather activities. The garment comprises a
4 body having two ends, a zipper attached to the body near the ends,
5 thereby forming two flaps which are positioned beneath the zipper.
6 The zipper is not as long as the ends, and the remainder of the
7 ends are stitched together. The zipper is attached to the body at
8 an angle that is about 45 degrees, such that when the zipper is
9 moved into a closed position, the garment enables the wearer to
10 warm their neck, and when the wearer wants to cool down, the zipper
11 is moved into an open position, the ends are separated and remain
12 open, exposing an area of the wearer and enabling the exposed area
13 to be cooled down without interference from the garment. The
14 garment is particularly suited for outdoor activities such as
15 skiing.

1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING.

2 FIG. 1 is a plan view of the present invention, with the closure in
3 the closed position.

4 FIG. 2 is a plan view of a fabric piece used to manufacture the
5 hood member.

6 FIG. 3 is a view of the present invention when worn over the head
7 and covering part of the face.

8 FIG. 4 shows the present invention when the hood member is worn
9 behind the head.

10 FIG. 5 illustrates the present invention in an open position.

11
12 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.

13
14 The present invention is an article of clothing 10 designed
15 for wearing about the user's head and neck during what are
16 generally considered to be cold weather activities, such as skiing,
17 iceskating, snowmobiling, snowboarding, snowshoeing, sledding or
18 the like. While the present invention is intended for use in
19 outdoor activities, it is to be understood that the present
20 invention could be worn indoors, such as in ice arenas or the
21 like, and no limitation to outdoor wear is intended, or for its use
22 at specific temperatures or climates, except as described within
23 the appended claims.

24
25 The present invention 10 (FIG. 1) is a head and neck garment.
26 This embodiment of the head and neck garment 10 is made from
27 several pieces of fabric. The garment 10 comprises a neck member
28 20 and a head member, or hood, 60. Neck member 20 is made from a
29 single piece of fabric, with each piece having a first (inner)
30 surface 22 and a second (outer) surface 24 and two ends 26 and 28,
31 from a pattern (not shown) that essentially has the form of a
32 parallelogram. When the neck member is assembled, the first
33 surface 22 becomes the inner surface 22 of the garment's neck

1 member 20, and the second surface 24 becomes the outer surface 24
2 (FIG. 5).

3
4 Prior to assembly, and to create a more finished appearance,
5 a portion 30 and 32 of the outer surface 14, are folded over onto
6 a portion of inner surface 22 and joined together by means of
7 stitching 34 to form upper seam 36 and lower seam 38. It is to be
8 understood that other means of attaching fabrics to one another to
9 form seams can be employed, and such methods can include attachment
10 by means of heat, hot melt glues, adhesives, or other methods known
11 to those skilled in the art.

12
13 Referring to FIGs. 1 and 3, the ends 26 and 28 of neck member
14 20 are joined by a closure 40. In this embodiment, closure 40 is
15 a zipper, and the zipper terminates with a traditional zipper pull-
16 tab 42. Other means for operating the zipper can be substituted
17 for or added to, pull-tab 42, such as rings (metallic, or non-
18 metallic, such as, but not limited to plastics, nylon, and the
19 like), tabs made from materials other than metals, such as plastics
20 or rubber, or fabrics ranging from leather, nylon or other durable
21 material.

22
23 The hood member 60 (or head covering member) is made from two
24 pieces of fabric 62, shaped generally as shown in FIG. 2. Each
25 piece of fabric includes a front surface 64, a top surface 66, a
26 rear surface 68 which is contiguous with the top surface 66, and a
27 bottom surface 70. The hood member 60 is formed by joining the
28 fabric pieces along their top 66 and rear 68 surfaces, forming an
29 elongated body, having a seam 72 created by stitching 34. In the
30 embodiment shown in the drawings, the seam and stitching is inside
31 the hood, but the seam and stitching can be positioned in any
32 manner that one of ordinary skill in the art may deem appropriate.
33 A second seam 74 is formed along the front edges by means of

1 stitching 34, to provide the garment with a more finished
2 appearance. The hood member 60 (head covering member) is joined to
3 the neck member 20 by stitching the hood member (head covering
4 member) proximate its bottom surface 70 to the upper seam 36 of
5 neck member 20, such that the closure 40 remains in the front of
6 the head and neck garment 10. As shown in FIG. 1, this results in
7 the formation of an opening 76 for insertion of the wearer's head
8 and face through the garment. The garment 10 is made from a
9 stretchable fabric (described below) and fits over the head and
10 neck of the wearer. The hood member 60 (or head covering member)
11 can be worn so that it covers the head (FIG. 3) or rests behind the
12 head or neck (FIG. 4), or anywhere in between, depending upon the
13 needs of the wearer. The wearer's eyes are visible through the
14 opening 76, and the front of the neck member 20 can be positioned
15 as low or as high on the face as the wearer desires, such that much
16 of the face and nose can be protected, while still allowing vision.

17
18 Although assembly of the hood member 60 (head covering member)
19 using multiple pieces of fabric has been described herein, it is to
20 be understood that a hood member produced using other methods, such
21 as from a single piece of fabric, or from more than two pieces of
22 fabric, or from a knitted or crocheted material is expressly
23 contemplated to be within the scope of the present invention.

24
25 In the embodiment shown in FIG. 1, the zipper 40 is not
26 coextensive with the length of ends 26 and 28. In this manner, the
27 garment 10 of the present invention is intended to be opened and
28 worn by first pulling it over the head and neck of the wearer.
29 Further, because the zipper 40 is not coextensive with the length
30 of the ends, the garment 10 should not come off during use.

31
32 Typically, zippers are inserted in garments such that when the
33 garment is worn, the zipper is parallel to the longitudinal axis of

1 the garment (i.e., generally straight up and down, as in a jacket
2 or pair of trousers). In the present invention, the zipper 40 is
3 sewn into the garment at an angle of approximately 45 degrees in
4 relation to the length of the wearer's neck. By insertion of the
5 zipper 40 at the angle shown in FIG. 1 the inventor has found that
6 during an activity such as downhill skiing, the user can readily
7 open the garment 10 by sliding zipper 40 to a desired position, and
8 that the ends 26 and 28 joined by the zipper can be easily
9 separated.

10
11 The ends 26 and 28 are joined (FIG. 5) such that there is
12 overlap between the ends and the zipper 40, forming a first flap
13 44, which flap protects the wearer's neck from contact with the
14 zipper. Second flap 46, attached to end 26, is generally smaller
15 than first flap 44. First flap 44 has a length that is greater
16 than the length of the zipper 40, and first flap 44 may be
17 coextensive with the length of ends 26 and 28. The garment 10 is
18 closed by taking the remaining portions of each ends 26 and 28 that
19 are not connected by zipper 40 and attaching them to one another by
20 conventional methods of attachment, such as stitching 34, forming
21 seam 50.

22
23 As shown in FIGs. 1 and 3, the zipper 40 is sewn into the
24 garment at an approximately 45 degree angle in relation to the
25 length of the wearer's neck. By insertion of the zipper 40 at this
26 particular angle, it has been found that the garment can be opened
27 readily by a user while skiing, and that the garment can be kept
28 open. The combination of easy opening and the ability to remain
29 open is an advantage of the present invention. The present
30 invention offers the wearer the ability to cool off readily, yet
31 not have material covering up the area to be cooled down, or
32 getting in the way, a problem that occurs when a zipper is used in
33 the conventional manner (i.e., straight up and down, along the

length of the wearer's neck).

The garment is made such that there is a layer of material beneath the zipper, to protect the wearer's neck from contact with the zipper.

In an embodiment, the present invention is manufactured from a material sold under the trademark POLARFLEECE® (Registered trademark of Maldin Mills Industries, Inc., Lawrence MA), which is a stretch type material now commonly used for the manufacture of outdoor garments, but can be made from any suitable material, including POLARTEC® (Registered trademark of Maldin Mills Industries, Inc., Lawrence MA), POLARTEK® (Registered trademark of Ads Properties Corp., Burlington VT), or similar materials.

Although not shown in the drawings, a lining can be included in the garment for added warmth, and the lining can be any suitable material. The lining can be sewn into the garment using conventional methods, and depending upon the style selected by a manufacturer, could extend beyond the body of the neck garment 10 of the present invention.

In use, the user opens up the garment 10 of the present invention by unzipping the zipper, and the user pulls the open garment over their head until it rests over their neck, and the hood member 60 covers as much of their head as the user deems necessary. The zipper is then moved to a position that the user finds comfortable. The wearer can place the hood member 60 over their head, either partially or completely, or position it so that it remains behind their neck. The garment 10 can be worn under the user's outer clothing, such as over a shirt; over outerwear such as a jacket, jumpsuit or the like; or in any manner the user finds comfortable. Generally the garment is worn with its zippered

1 region in the front, but if the hood member is not worn over the
2 head, any position that is comfortable to the wearer and which
3 enables the wearer to grasp the zipper can be employed. As the
4 user is participating in a particular activity, as they feel warm,
5 the hood member 60 can be pushed back, and/or the zipper can be
6 grasped and opened, the ends 26 and 28 are separated, enabling the
7 user to cool themselves down or to reach a comfortable temperature.
8 The open garment remains on the wearer. As the wearer cools off
9 sufficiently, and seeks additional warmth, the garment is then
10 closed by moving the zipper to a comfortable closed position, and,
11 where desired, the hood member is repositioned as desired on the
12 wearer's head.

13
14 Therefore, although this invention has been described with a
15 certain degree of particularity, it is to be understood that the
16 present disclosure has been made only by way of illustration and
17 that numerous changes in the details of construction and
18 arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the
19 spirit and scope of the invention.